

# Two SARSEF Science and Engineering Fair Finalists Recognized Nationally in Middle School Science Competition



Zoe Nickola, a seventh grader from Tucson, Arizona, was one of two SARSEF Finalists named as one of the Top 300 Broadcom MASTERS. She poses with her project during set up at the 2020 SARSEF Science and Engineering Fair.

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**Media Contact:**

**Julie Euber, COO**  
**SARSEF**  
**812-340-8663**  
[julie@sarsef.org](mailto:julie@sarsef.org)

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(Tucson, AZ) Society for Science & the Public and Broadcom Foundation have announced the Top 300 competitors in the [2020 Broadcom MASTERS](#), the nation's premier STEM competition

for middle school students. Two SARSEF Science and Engineering Fair finalists from Southern Arizona were selected – Zoe Nickola, Grade 7, Homeschool, Tucson, AZ and Matthew Moore, Grade 8, Crane Middle School, Yuma, AZ.

To be nominated for the national competition, students must first compete in a Society-affiliated science fair. Both students participated in the SARSEF Science and Engineering Fair, and won a grand or special award in their category.

Moore’s project focused on determining which purification method is more effective in reducing the number of *E.coli* colonies on sprinkler-irrigated romaine leaves, and Nickola’s project was on bike sail engineering.

“First I researched people who had made bike sails before but there weren’t very many. Then I researched all the different types of sails and how to sail on boats, Nickola explained. “I tested four different kinds of sails that were to scale for the bike. I used some fans to test different speeds and I tested different angles to find out which one was better. My conclusion that the traditional triangular sail was the best style.”

Nickola and Moore competed against 3,474 other middle school students from across the country to earn recognition for their research as one of the top 300 Broadcom MASTERS.

Nickola hopes to continue completing science projects in the future and encourages other students to do the same.

“Think about doing a science project not as work, but as a fun project to show what you can do and how you can think outside the box. You get to test your ideas,” Nickola shared.

Each of the Top 300 Masters will receive a \$125 award from the Department of Defense STEM and an exclusive prize package. Thirty finalists will be chosen from these top competitors to compete for more than \$100,000 in awards and prizes. Finalists will be announced September 16.

**About SARSEF:**

<http://sarsef.org>

*SARSEF was formed in 1955 in an effort to increase student interest in the field of science. The mission of SARSEF is to teach Arizona’s Pre-K-12 grade students critical thinking and problem-solving skills as they participate in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM) through inquiry-based learning and research.*

*SARSEF accomplishes this mission through a variety of programming including SARSEF Research Fair Week, educational outreach programs with an emphasis on*

*underrepresented populations in the sciences, teacher professional development, ACES Camp for Middle School girls, Racing the Sun, and Arizona STEM Adventure.*

*Over 795 professionals in the community volunteer for SARSEF each year, and 145 organizations support its programs financially.*

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